

Roma Evictions in Greece Violation of European Social Charter

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The 300,000 Roma living in Greece won a major judicial victory on June 8th, 2005 with the decision of the European Committee of Social Rights to condemn Greek policies towards the housing and accomodation of Roma. The Committee held that the current situation in Greece is a violation of Article 16 of the European Social Charter, guaranteeing protection of family life and family housing for all Europeans. "This decision is among the first in Roma rights to find an entire field of policy and practice by a European government illegal," said Claude Cahn, Acting Executive Director of the European Roma Rights Center (ERRC), the legal advocacy organization that helped the case before the Committee. "It therefore marks a key turning point in our efforts to challenge the systemic human rights abuse of Roma in Europe."

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